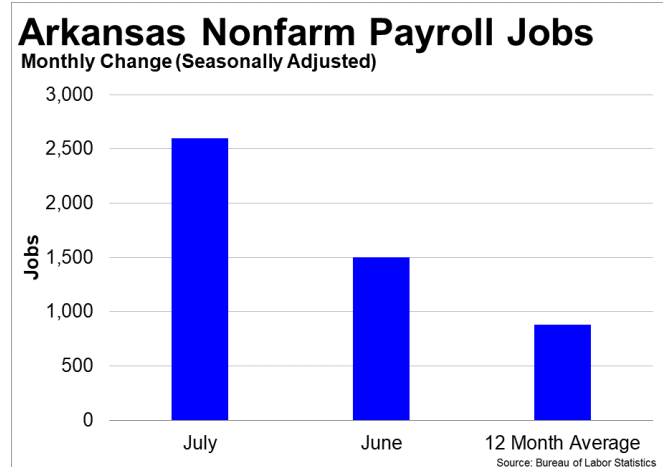
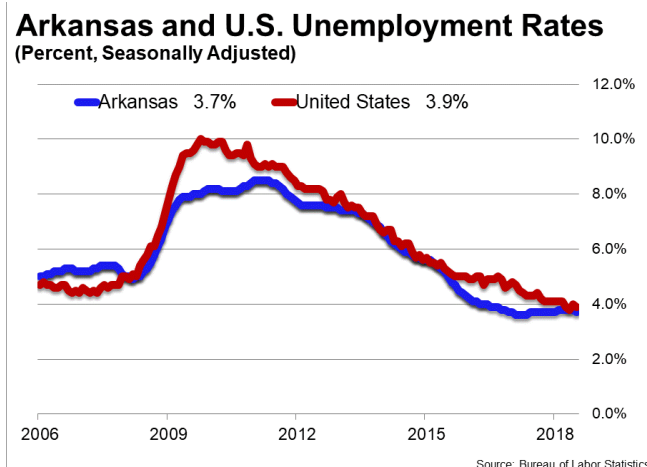




August 17, 2018

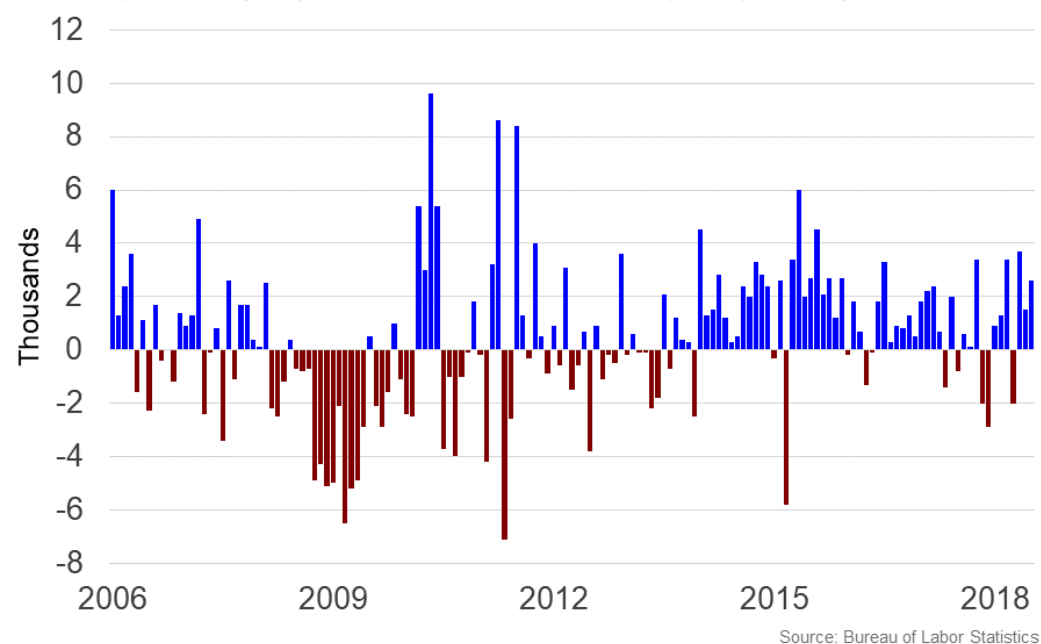
Summary

- **Arkansas added 2,600 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.7 percent in July** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Arkansas added 10,600 jobs** and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent.
- **In July, Arkansas's private sector added 2,500 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 11,100 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Arkansans fell by 1,309 in July**, and over the past year 7,927 Arkansans lost jobs.
- Arkansas's **labor force participation rate decreased to 57.6 percent** from 57.7 percent in July. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.7 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent in July**. State employment and unemployment data for August is scheduled for release on September 21, 2018. The national employment situation report for August will be released on Friday, September 7, 2018.



Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Change (Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted)



Arkansas Payroll Employment

Arkansas added 2,600 jobs, or 0.21 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during July. In the prior month, Arkansas added 1,500 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Arkansas increased by 10,600, or 0.85 percent. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 157,000 jobs in July, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending July 2018, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,400,000 jobs, or 1.64 percent. Arkansas ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

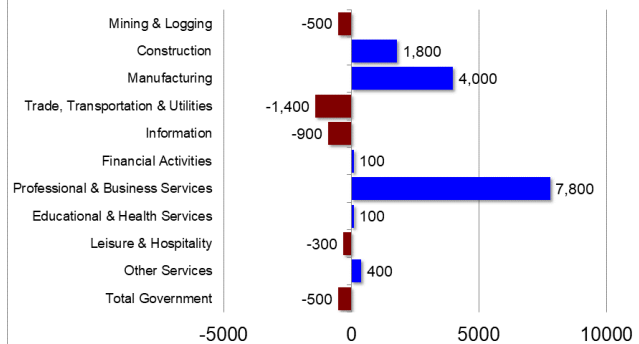
During July, Arkansas's private-sector added 2,500 jobs, or 0.24 percent. The private-sector in Arkansas added 1,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Arkansas increased by 11,100, or 1.08 percent. Arkansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 170,000 jobs in July, or 0.13 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,392,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.92 percent. Arkansas ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during July were Professional & Business Services (+1,600) and Manufacturing (+1,200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-800), Information (-100), and Other Services (-100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+7,800) and Manufacturing (+4,000). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,400) and Information (-900).

Change in Arkansas Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

Arkansas Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

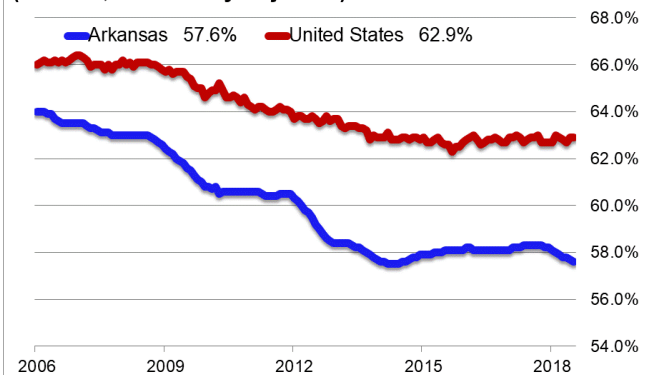
The labor force participation rate in Arkansas declined to 57.6 percent in July from 57.7 percent the prior month. At 57.6 percent, Arkansas has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Arkansas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was 63.0 percent in August 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 57.5 percent in June 2014. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in April 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 57.3 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.9 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Arkansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 55.5 percent in July. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 have higher employment-to-population ratios than

Arkansas and U.S. Labor Force Participation (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Arkansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas is 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas was 59.5 percent in August 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.8 percent in February 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in May 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.5 percent in July. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

